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- magnesia MgO : 19 to 23%
- alumina Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> : 69 to 74%.

Amend claim 8 as follows:

--8. (Amended) Binder according to claim 1, characterized in that it comprises a SiO<sub>2</sub> content of less than 0.5% of the binder by dry weight.

Amend claim 9 as follows:

--9. (Amended) Binder according to claim 1, characterized in that it has a Blaine area surface at least equal to 3000 cm<sup>2</sup>/g.

Amend claim 10 as follows:

--10. (Amended) Use of a binder according to claim 1 for producing a refractory concrete.

Amend claim 13 as follows:

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--13. (Amended) Use of a binder according to claim 1, characterized in that it is used in the manufacture of steel ladles (1), preferably for wear linings (5) of such steel ladles (1).

Amend claim 14 as follows:

--14. (Amended) Process for producing a binder according to claim 1, characterized in that the binder is made through frittering by burning of a blend of raw materials comprising dolomite, alumina and magnesia.

Amend claim 16 as follows:

--16. (Amended) Process according to claim 14, characterized in that alumina is metallurgical.

Amend claim 17 as follows:

--17. (Amended) Process according to claim 14, characterized in that magnesia is reactive, preferably caustic, and has advantageously a grain size 100% lower than 100  $\mu\text{m}$ , preferably lower than 40  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Amend claim 18 as follows:

--18. (Amended) Process according to claim 14, characterized in that, before burning, the raw materials are milled up to a grain size corresponding to a 2% maximum rejection in a sieve of 65  $\mu\text{m}$ .

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Amend claim 19 as follows:

--19. (Amended) Process according to claim 14, characterized in that burning is carried out at a temperature comprised between 1400°C and 1600°C.

Amend claim 20 as follows:

--20. (Amended) Process according to claim 14, characterized in that the degree of progression of the burning is evaluated by measuring the free magnesia content by dry weight of the mixture.--